

4/12/40 Louder Than Ever: American Youth Demands 'Keep U.S. Out' Of the War

IN the grim headlines which come from Europe, the American people can see the unfolding of the imperialist crimes against which the Communists, and their spokesman Earl Browder, have been warning.

The flames of the Allied-German war have spread to Scandinavia.

The people of Scandinavia did not want to have anything to do with the Allied-German war. They feared it. They desperately sought to keep their neutrality. They oppose being the pawns of either side, and dying for London or Berlin. Yet, today their homes have become a battlefield, smugly described by capitalist journalists as the "Northern Battlefield." They did not choose this fate; yet this fate has overtaken them. How? Why?

The latest events find their explanation in the warning uttered by Earl Browder only last week.

In their rage at the Soviet-Finnish peace, in their fears that this peace would spread, the war-makers, Browder, warned, would increase their efforts to spread the war.

"This should cause the people to be on the alert for even more desperate and fantastic adventures which may be launched without notice." (Boston speech, March 31).

Events have confirmed this timely warning with locomotive speed.

Let the people but consider the known facts which tell how Norway was converted into the battlefield for a criminal war between rival imperialist powers.

The Norwegian Government officially and strongly protested to the Allied powers against London and Paris' "open breach of international law" and charged these governments with "infringement of Norwegian neutrality."

In the strongest terms, the Norwegian minister correctly characterized the Allied mine-layings as a deliberate violation of its neutrality. The Allied initiative was a deliberate attempt to compel Norway to capitulate to the Allies, to enter the war on the Allied side, to force Norway to surrender her neutrality.

In spite of Norway's clamorous protest, Britain refused to permit Norway her rights or existence as a neutral. The British Government spurned Norway's protest as an obstacle to the British policy of spreading the war. Norway's independent neutrality was an obstacle to the Allied plans; it was deliberately sacrificed.

Commenting on the latest developments, the London correspondent of the Chicago Daily News declared last night:

"These possibilities must all have been foreseen when the British suddenly announced yesterday morning that they had laid three mine fields in Norwegian territorial waters. That move was construed as nothing more or less than a definite challenge to Germany to come out and fight, and the Allies in turn must have made preparations to follow up the challenge if it were accepted. (April 9).

He continued:

"When the gauntlet was thrown in Germany's face yesterday morning it was assumed that the British wanted Germany to embark on some such expedition as that which they have undertaken, the natural expectation being that they would come to grief. Even this morning's London papers state that a German naval expedition such as was reported in progress would be welcomed by the Admiralty." (N. Y. Post, April 9).

Today, the inevitable consequences of this policy have descended upon the heads of the people. Britain, France, and Germany are spreading the fires of a criminal imperialist war, engulfing new na-

tions, threatening to draw in still more nations. At war with Germany, Britain's actions have called forth the inevitable counter-measures which its own policy had desired to provoke.

The Allies thus have succeeded in military aims which it has been their goal for six months to achieve—they have their "Northern Battlefield." They will strive to extend this to the "Balkan battlefield" and the "Near East battlefield."

BUT it is essential for the American people to understand that they have not achieved this battlefield under the conditions originally planned.

They had confidently expected to drive all of Scandinavia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania into the "Northern Battlefield," using it as a base for a vast anti-Soviet assault. Their plans were upset by the far-sightedness of the Soviet Government, its Red Army and the strength of its peace policy. This fact emerges today with colossal force.

The Red Army's cracking of the Mannerheim Line, its peace with Finland on March 12, literally saved millions of human beings in the Baltics from being drawn into the "spread the war" conspiracy.



By wiping out the Mannerheim line as a military base for a wide-open "Northern battlefield," the Soviet Union not only secured its own safety; it swept the Allied war fires out of the Baltics, and opened up for all of peace-loving mankind the opportunity to halt the gigantic sufferings of the imperialist war before they broke forth in full fury. It defends its neutrality effectively.

The record is plain. The steps taken to spread the war at all costs were taken in the first place by the Allied general staffs. The practical measures to spread the war came from London and Paris. The Wall Street-controlled press in this country is trying hard to obscure this crucial fact. But this is the most vital point for the American people to seize upon in their struggle to keep the United States out of the war.

The American people must grasp this because it is obvious that they can now expect a barrage of new, extreme measures from Washington and Wall Street to drag the United States into the war.

Louder and louder will clang the false slogans about "independence," and "ideals" and "aggressors." Every effort will be made to obscure the real war aims—the bitter imperialist warfare over markets, profits, colonies, and conquest.

The American people cannot afford to permit themselves to be deceived or confused over the war aims of the rival imperialist camps. They will have to resist the guile and hysteria of this pressure.

The war aims of the German imperialists are just as indefensible as the

war aims of London, Paris—and Washington. But the forces driving for war in this country are not seeking to involve the United States on the side of German imperialism. They are seeking to involve the United States on the side of the Allied powers. Here is the crucial danger to America's peace. Here must the people direct their utmost vigilance to prevent a repetition of the 1917 swindle.

IT IS to Washington and the Roosevelt government that the people must direct their alert watchfulness and protest.

Has not the Roosevelt Government steadily involved America deeper and deeper on the side of the Allies? Did it not advance from its initial slogan of "neutral in deeds but not in thought" to making America the open arsenal of the Allies?

Has it not advanced from this to active intervention in Scandinavia, in Finland, as the collaborator of the "spread the war" policy, especially against the Soviet Union?

It is not to be expected that the Roosevelt Government will abandon its policy of "spread the war." On the contrary, the latest events will see an increased drive in Washington to spread the war even to the United States. The Presidential attacks on the "peace headlines," the mysterious Welles report, take on significance in view of what has happened since.

The fight for peace cannot and will not down. While the war spreads, the popular will for peace is at its height. The peace forces are stronger. The prospects are that the struggle for peace will astound the war-makers by its power and extent. The warring governments will come face to face with million-strong humanity which refuses to endure another Golgotha, or another 10,000,000 corpses, for the sake of the munition-makers and imperialist financiers.

The peoples cannot depend on their imperialist governments for peace. Their profit-seeking governments strive for war. The people must rely on themselves.

Immense organized protest against the war is the need of the hour!

In their struggle to keep America out, to halt the war fires, the American people have an ally of great power in the peace policy of the Soviet Union. This makes it a practical necessity for the peace movement to oppose the anti-Soviet provocations of official Washington policy.

Strengthened by the April 6 anti-war demonstrations, American Labor can summon the nation to declare "Keep America Out of War!" To the munition-makers who scent new war profits, America says, "The Yanks Are Not Coming." The two Wall Street parties, despite trifling disagreements on details, are agreed on the main aim—to spread the war. The people cannot depend upon them nor any of their representatives; they move to their own third party, a true peace party. The jobless thunder, "Work, Not War!"

The people will not die meekly for the Lords of Profit. They will have the last word. Louder, louder than ever will rise the cries: "Keep America out of this criminal war!" "The Yanks Are Not Coming!" and "Work, Not War!"

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